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W. R. HEARST.

AN AMERICAN PAPER FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

Mr. Coler
on
Municipal
Ownership.

All progress in civilization comes from the initiative of exceptional individuals. Comptroller Coler is an exceptional individual. In a speech delivered at a meeting of the City Club he urged municipal ownership of the entire water front of the city, its transit systems and all other public franchises.

This is directly in line with the Journal's long-advocated policy.

Those who oppose the radical changes advocated by Mr. Coler have visions of municipal ownership of grocery stores, laundries and all private business as a natural sequence. Their sole argument is of municipal interference with private prosperity. Let no man be frightened at this.

Through municipal ownership of public franchises the great problem involved in the financial dickering between politicians and city contractors will be solved.

It will enable a more liberal and wider use of the resources of the city for the social advancement of the inhabitants.

It will bring into local politics real issues in connection with city affairs, and will make city elections more than mere ballot-box scrambles to see which set of politicians shall divide the profits of government.

By means of municipal ownership the citizen will be brought into closer touch with the municipal administration.

Mr. Coler favors constitutional amendments that will increase our borrowing capacity and enable the city to acquire all public franchises without further burdening the taxpayer. He says:

In order that Greater New York may not be hampered in the development of its vast resources I would recommend a constitutional amendment that will enable the city to separate investments from ordinary debt. This is no vague and untried scheme of finance. It is not an experiment or a chance speculation, but a plain business proposition, against which no valid objection can be urged. Our docks and water works are paying investments, therefore dock and water bonds should not be included in the liabilities charged against the borrowing capacity of the city. If we eliminate those two items, the city will have a debt margin that will enable us to make progress in all important directions without laying upon the taxpayers of this or future generations any oppressive burden.

When the city has decided to adopt the new policy it should begin operations by establishing a municipal gas system. This will interest every voter in Greater New York, in that it touches his immediate home expenses, and will pave the way for the greater task of acquiring the entire city water front and all public franchises.

Roosevelt
Looking for
Land Grab
Precedents.

In the little matter of the Astoria land steal, Governor Roosevelt sets great store upon the past performances of the State Land Board. He will not sign the land grant "until he knows what has been done in the past," and the "price at which city lands have been disposed of heretofore."

The "precedents" of which Governor Roosevelt speak form no basis whatever for a just disposition of the case. If lands have been given away in the past, it does not follow that the State Land Board shall continue to give them away in defiance of the people's wishes.

The time has arrived, without deference to the land thefts of the past, to put a stop to the land thefts of the present, and provide against land thefts in the future. It is absurd to look for precedents to justify dishonest transactions.

Suppose that this city should seek to purchase the franchises it has given away or the valuable land grants it has disposed of for a song? It would cost the taxpayers the ransom of a kingdom to get back their own.

It may not be the intention of Governor Roosevelt to befool the public, but the stand he has taken in the Astoria land grant case does not seem consistent with his ante-election speeches.

It does not matter that the land which the Astoria Gas Company seek to acquire cannot be disposed of to any other corporation. It does matter, however, that the land be disposed of at a fair and equitable price. The entire case affords a splendid opportunity for the exercise of Governor Roosevelt's "courage and honesty."

New
Industries
and
Inventions.

The report comes from Wisconsin that sugar has been made successfully from whey, a product hitherto of no value in particular and considered as so much waste material. As dairies may be said to grow on every corner in Wisconsin, it is not unreasonable to suppose that the future may see this region become a centre of sweetness and light.

News comes from Washington that a new food has recently been perfected, made from desiccated corn stalks. Until now these have been used only for packing. This food is light and very nourishing, compact and easily portable. It is thought that prize cattle will be especially benefited by this new product, as it will now be safer to transport them long distances and into new climates.

A third advance recently reported is the invention of a mechanical stoker, one that feeds furnaces in the close fire rooms of ships almost as well as a man, and cannot possibly die of hardships and intense heat. The human stoker can count on only about five years of life. Of course the mechanical stoker will wear out, too, in a generation or so. But iron, steel and brass are easy to replace and leave no families to mourn their loss. The new invention has been on trial eight times, each for a period of twenty-three hours. In every instance it did its work well.

Evidently the inventive genius of mankind is not entirely absorbed in the production of devices for destroying life in war.

The
Import of
Buller's
Reverse.

Again the British have suffered a serious reverse at the hands of the Boers. General Buller in attempting to cross the Tugela River with his entire force was driven back with heavy loss.

This is the fifth severe engagement in which the Boers have been victorious. The moral effect of these victories on the Cape Colony Dutch, the savage tribes around the Transvaal and the nations of Europe cannot be overestimated.

France and Russia are watching the struggle with no friendly regard, and Germany, in spite of diplomatic and business affiliations with England, is a natural sympathizer with the Boers.

So far every British general commanding a separate force, with the exception of General French, has been beaten. However, it is generally true in civilized warfare that the generals in command at the opening of hostilities are not the generals who decide the war.

True to their traditions of battle, the English have plunged straight ahead, apparently upon the theory, that the straightest way is the best way.

The discipline and fighting ability displayed by the Boers are certainly astonishing when the crude quality of their army is considered.

Santa Claus for Asylum Children.

Editor of the New York Journal:
On Eighth avenue, near Forty-third street, to-day, I saw a long procession of little girls pass along, guided by women in the garb of nuns. One of the latter, in reply to a respectful inquiry, said that the little ones belonged to St. Vincent's Asylum, on Thirty-ninth street. They looked well taken care of, healthy, and as nearly happy as motherless children could be. They touched me, however, was the curiosity and anxiety with which they regarded the toys and other things for children in the shop windows.

Poor little hearts! Will no one remember those little ones from their own abundance in this Christmas season and get their gratitude and that of the mothers who look down on them from above? I am a Protestant myself, but this, it seems to me, would be a noble charity.

A READER.

Napoleon Vengeur.

Editor of the New York Journal:
Do you not see Napoleon Vengeur in the "nasty" "traps" into which the Boers are leading the British? Strange, is it not, how history is repeated? But how the boot does get on to the other foot in this Waterloo!

Dec. 14.

PLAIN TALK WITH THE PEOPLE.

Christian Science to Cure Babies.

Editor of the New York Journal:

I have a little child three years old who is very ill with some disease which we cannot make out. My husband is a Christian Scientist, and, although I believe in it to a certain extent, I do not believe that it can cure everything. I don't know what to do about it, or what my duty is, whether to obey my husband or call a doctor.

MRS. MANTELL.

Williamsburg, Dec. 14.

Call a physician by all means. In the matter of physical ills there is absolutely nothing in Christian Science that does not exist in hypnotism. It would be but little short of criminal to allow a human being to die for lack of sensible medical attention on account of a foolish and fanatical faith.

In a Western State a few weeks ago a baby swallowed an open safety pin. The father, a sensible man, was absent. The mother, a Christian Scientist, not knowing what ailed the child, called in the Chief Scientist, who gazed into the child's eyes and thought unutterable thoughts.

But this only made the child squall the louder. In a week the husband returned.

The baby was almost dead. In spite of his wife's protests he bundled the Chief Scientist out of doors and called a doctor. The child was put under the X-rays and the trouble was ascertained. It was too late. Death ensued. Such things as these do not stagger the faith of Christian Scientists. In this case they simply claimed that "the mother's faith was not strong enough."

Go to a doctor with your baby and put your faith in him. If you have a headache and believe hard enough, very likely Christian Science may cure it, but don't take chances with a child's life.

Preserve Old Ironsides.

Editor of the New York Journal.

If Congress is responsive to American sentiment it will restore "Old Ironsides" and keep her at Washington as the National Naval Museum, a tribute to the noblest of navies.

Every Briton thrills at the name of Nelson's flagship Victory. Congress should give our people in the restored U. S. frigate Constitution, "Old Ironsides," a similar focus of patriotic sentiment, and this duty should be accomplished before the "log rolling" begins.

"Old Ironsides" would be safe at Washington. The Kearsarge was lost on Roncador Reef and the Hartford is subject to the perils of the sea. "Old Ironsides" should be put beyond danger.

JOHN WINFIELD SCOTT.

New York, Nov. 20.

This is a fine and patriotic suggestion. The glorious record of "Old Ironsides" forms one of the brightest chapters in our naval history, and the preservation of the battle-scarred veteran of our early wars should be a matter of national pride.

A suggestion to this end by some patriotic Congressman would undoubtedly meet with favor. By all means let us place "Old Ironsides" among the "mustered out" relics of our nation's glory.

Money for Mrs. Booth.

Editor of the New York Journal.

I enclose herewith five dollars, which I venture to ask you to forward to Mrs. Ballington Booth as an expression of gratitude for what she has done for me and many others who, like me, have had the misfortune to get behind prison bars.

In the prosecution of the blessed work which she has undertaken in behalf of prisoners I was brought under the spell of her influence about three years ago, convicted of sin and led to Christ.

Since that time I have been a new man. Two months ago I regained my liberty, and am to-day in a position of responsibility, and look out into a future full of promise.

My story is not exceptional. Thousands of others have been rescued from lives of awful wickedness by the Christ-like ministry of this noble woman. She does what no police force can do—she preaches a gospel that changes the character of men.

Oh, if the hundreds and the thousands that have been helped by this noble woman would send her a little Christmas offering, how it would cheer her in her exhausting labors and enable her to enlarge her plans.

EX-PRISONER.

Dec. 9.

Bill for Municipal Gas.

Editor of the New York Journal:

If the bill authorizing the city to own its own gas plant fails to pass the Legislature it will mean that the city will have to surrender municipal autonomy. When this danger threatens, then the situation will be serious enough to move all good citizens to united and determined action.

I believe the bill will pass. I shall introduce it in the Senate on the opening day of the Legislature, and no effort will be spared to secure its early passage.

The Democratic legislators from this borough expressed themselves on this matter at the last legislative session. Three strong Republican Assembly districts were carried by the Democrats at the recent election. This proves that the course of the Democrats met with the approval of the people.

The adoption at the polls of the constitutional amendment separating the debts of the city and county insures sufficient capital for the city to enter the gas field as a competitor. This can be done without danger to any other enterprise the city may have in hand. Tammany will stand behind the bill to be introduced, and the representatives of Tammany will fight for it until the end.

THOMAS F. DONNELLY.

Senator from the Twentieth District.

Dec. 1.

Favors Free Cuba.

Editor of the New York Journal:

I was greatly astonished a few days ago to see in your paper a leading editorial advocating Cuba's independence. We all were beginning to believe that you had forgotten your good American policy, sustained during the late Cuban struggle with such perseverance and disinterestedness, because your worthy publication has kept absolute silence during many months on this important question.

I have been for many years a daily reader of the Journal, and I have never seen your paper drop a subject of vital interest to the public, nor have I seen it go back on a principle that claims the support of our people.

Let us see the Journal stand up again in behalf of our proteges—the Cubans—until Congress votes that a stable government has been established in the island and recognizes the ability of the natives of Cuba to govern themselves.

I am confident that that will happen within a few months if the Journal takes up the campaign with a fresh vigor. The American people will support such a policy. I am certain.

R. TAULELLE.

New York, December 3.

JOURNAL CRUSADE STIRS BRITAIN
TO ACTION AGAINST POLYGAMISTS.

Gretna Green of Mormon Lawbreakers at Cardston, Canada, Will Be Abolished—Utah Witnesses Against Roberts Will Appear Before the Congressional Committee on Monday.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Great Britain is now considering the question of polygamy. An attaché of the British Embassy has forwarded to the home Government full details concerning the practice of polygamy in the Gretna Green for Utah Mormons who wish to live their religion and at the same time evade the laws of this country.

This Mormon settlement of Cardston, Alberta, just over the Canadian border, is known as "Little Salt Lake" to the Mormons. They have founded a prosperous town, and by means of irrigation have achieved wonders with the barren land.

Through the investigation carried on by the Journal against Roberts and polygamy the town of Cardston received considerable mention. Utah Mormons gave the preference to Cardston when they wished to take new plural wives. It was a short cut to go up through Butte and Helena, Montana, to Cardston, by rail, and there was then no danger of prosecution.

It is believed the British Government will turn over to the Taylor Committee records of all the marriages in Cardston since the enactment of the Edmunds-Tucker law, and steps have been taken to secure them.

Bural wives of men high up in the councils of the Mormon Church have been frequent visitors to Cardston. The records of births in this Canadian town is said to be something phenomenal, but the children soon after found their way back to Utah.

This Mormon colony is presided over by C. O. Card, and the woman with whom he lives, Zenia Y. Card, is one of his plural wives. The legal wife, Senator A. H. P. Card, lives at Logan, Utah. "The British Government will, I feel convinced, make a thorough investigation into the polygamous practices in this Canadian settlement," said Lawyer A. T. Schroeder, of Salt Lake City, tonight.

If the marriage records of that settlement could be made public it would prove of tremendous interest to the nation. They would show how the Mormons, after taking a fancy to a woman in Utah, disappear with the woman for a week or so, and soon it becomes known, after his return from Cardston, that Brother So-and-So has taken a new plural.

"The Queen of England has always been known as a champion of the home, and I doubt if in any part of the world there is any woman who has a greater respect for the marriage tie.

"I feel confident that there will be prompt action taken toward blotting out polygamy in Canadian territory and providing regulations which will prohibit the wholesale marrying of plurals by Utah and Idaho Mormons."

Chairman Taylor has been advised that the witnesses who had been notified to come on from Salt Lake City are now on their way, so that there is little doubt they will be here in time to be heard Monday next.

PRINCE OF WALES DEPLORES GAMBLING.

TOLD THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY SO.

London, Dec. 15.—The biography of Dr. Benson, the late Archbishop of Canterbury, just published, reveals an interesting letter which the Prince of Wales wrote to him after the Tranbycroft scandal. It is as follows:

"My Dear Archbishop: Your kind letter has touched me very much, as I know the kind feelings which prompted you to write to me on the subject which we have discussed together, and which, as you are aware, has caused me deep pain and annoyance. A recent trial, which no one deplores more than I do, and which I was powerless to prevent, gave occasion for the press to make most bitter and unjust attacks upon me, knowing I was defenceless, and I am not sure politics were not mixed up in it.

"The whole matter has now died out, and I think, therefore, that it would be inappropriate for me, in any public manner, to allude again to the painful subject which has brought such a torrent of abuse upon me, not only by the press, but by the Low Church, and especially the non-Conformists.

"They have a perfect right, I am well aware, in a free country, like our own, to express their opinions, but I do not consider that they have a just right to jump at conclusions regarding myself without knowing the facts.

"I have a horror of gambling, and should always do my utmost to discourage

others who have an inclination for it, as I consider gambling, like intemperance, is one of the greatest curses which a country could be afflicted with. Horse racing may produce gambling, or it may not, but I have always looked upon it as a manly sport, which is popular with Englishmen of all classes, and there is no reason why it should be looked upon as a gambling transaction. Alas! those who will gamble at anything.

"I have written quite openly to you, my dear Archbishop, whom I have had the advantage of knowing so many years. Believe me, sincerely yours,

ALBERT EDWARD.

"Royal yacht Osborne, Cowes."

MEN WHO LEAD THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION IN THE OLD BAY STATE.

MAYOR JOHN C. CHASE, of Haverhill.

POLITICAL economists and students of social conditions generally are either disgusted or delighted, according to their point of view, because of the recent triumph of the Socialistic propaganda in the old State of Massachusetts. All have been startled by the result of the elections in the cities of Haverhill and Brockton, wherein John C. Chase was, in the former place, chosen Mayor on a Socialistic platform, and in Brockton, by the same token, Charles H. Coulter becomes the Chief Executive.

Socialism has struggled and fought for more than half a century across the waters, and has achieved much success, yet the fact remains that Haverhill and Brockton are the only two large cities in the world ever captured by the Socialists. That the people of the ultra-conservative State of Massachusetts should have been those to make this triumph possible is considered the amazing thing.

Mr. Chase was elected a year ago as a Socialist, but then the other parties were many times divided, so that his election could not really be declared a victory for his doctrine. This year, however, all of the other parties were united in one candidate to defeat Mr. Chase. They were squarely worsted on the Socialistic propositions, involving radical changes in the entire economic system of government. Mayor Chase explains his election thus:

"The Social Democratic triumph is a victory for the working class of the world. The fact that the Social Democrats in one short year compelled the leaders of the capitalist parties to combine to encompass their defeat was a substantial victory in itself.

"The result is gratifying in more ways than one. First, the greatest because it is the first real battle won by Socialism on American soil, and, second, because success came through honorable methods and unflinching devotion to the principles of Socialism.

"In Brockton the victory is a sign that Socialism is spreading rapidly in spite of all opposition. We have made a grand start, and from this time on will continue to spread throughout the country."

Asked why he favored municipal ownership, Mayor Chase said:

"My principal reason is that, whenever a mun-

unicipality takes from the hands of private individuals any public utility and assumes its operation in its corporate capacity, it is asserting and exemplifying the principal reason of Socialism, and so far as that particular function is concerned, applying the principle which I believe must be applied to all productive and distributive enterprises, namely, collective ownership and management."

The central figure in this triumph of a cause was formerly a shoemaker. His life had ever been one of sordid toil, and that he is to-day possessed of a good education is because he worked with his brain when his hands were idle and lifted himself out of the miserable conditions that encompassed him about.

He was born in Haverhill, on May 27, 1870, went into the woollen mills at eight and was a trade unionist at sixteen. His mother was widowed when he was five years old, and for

years thereafter, supported herself and her boy by keeping a boarding house. Her son helped her eventually, working in the mills, doing the home labor, and attending the district school when he could. After awhile he learned the trade of a shoemaker and finally completed his education.

It has been said that it is written in his face that he would not work for a cause in which he did not have unflinching faith. He does not say so himself, but it was in all probability a craving for definite work which led him into politics, where results, not merely organizations, might be achieved. He went to Haverhill when he was twenty years old, with his mother. His first work in Haverhill was among the labor unions in organizing and running unions. For five years he kept at this and at the end, without leaving off his work in the cause at all, he went into one of the large factories, where his ability to handle large bodies of men had been recognized.

Later still, he became interested in the People's party in Haverhill. As time went on and scenes shifted, he drifted into the Socialist movement when the Social Democracy was formed two years ago and he became the local organizer. He was given a clerkship in the co-operative store which was started by the Social Democrats.

His election to the office of Mayor last year found him behind the counter selling groceries in one of the two stores owned by the society with which he is still connected.

Mayor Chase is unmarried, and lives in a modest, frame house, with his mother and sister. Mr. Coulter was a plumber and was in the employ of one firm in Brockton from his sixteenth year until about six months ago. He was born in Wellesley Hills, Mass., January 21, 1870, and was a fisherman off the Maine coast and soon after his sixteenth year learned the plumbers' trade. He is regarded as severely honest, hearty, kindly, alert, is a good speaker and a deep student of social questions.

Mr. Coulter lost his wife a few weeks ago, and one great sorrow is that she did not live to see him achieve his triumph.

CHURCH SUBSCRIPTIONS MUST BE PAID. SO RULES AN IOWA JUDGE.

DES MOINES, Iowa, Dec. 15.—The Supreme Court held to-day that a church subscription made on Sunday is collectable. E. M. Donald, of Fort Madison, defendant in a suit brought by the First Methodist Episcopal Church, appeared from a similar decision by the District Court. His defense was that the obligation, having been entered into on Sunday, was illegal, and that there was no consideration. Both claims were overruled.

In discussing the case the court said the object of the subscription was not worldly gain, but the advance of Christianity and the betterment of morals in a particular locality. The sole purpose of the plaintiff's statutory existence as a corporate body was to do good. If so, contributions for its support must be classed as charity.

"Charity," said Judge Cooley, "is active goodness. It is doing good to our fellow men. It is fostering these institutions that are established to relieve pain, to prevent suffering and to do good to mankind in general or to any class or portion of mankind. The offering on the first day of the week has long existed, and no one has supposed this to be prohibited by statute. If not, ought receiving promises for the payment of larger sums to be deemed condemned thereby? Otherwise the deacons or others in passing the box or hat

and the minister in directing this to be done are amenable to the penalties of the law. The founder of Christianity declared it to be lawful to do good upon the Sabbath day. Making gifts to religious societies is undoubtedly with that design and is usually taught to be an act of devotion.

"In the second place the court holds that the indebtedness was that of the plaintiff as a corporation. The church was represented in a business way and entered into a contract. It is the custom of churches to require all indebtedness to be paid or provided for by subscription before dedication. The body corporate in the faith of subscriptions procured the security of the trustees individually, and in doing so accepted and acted on the subscription."

BIG BID OF THE GOULDS FOR FAVOR. CHOLLY KNICKERBOCKER DOUBTFUL OF RESULTS.

THERE are great things doing at Lakewood. The Gould private theatricals, I hear, are to be something unusual. A special theatre is building, a great company will be bidden, and I fancy there will be grand doings. I don't know who is going, for at the moment there seems to be a general disposition to hedge when the question is asked. Concerning it, the question and answer run in tentative ways: "Are you going?" "I can't say; are you?" "I shall be glad to hear who the persons are that Mrs. Gould has captured. I fancy the list will be explicit. The play to be given is "The Twilight of the Gods."

I do not contemplate the extinction of the social Waltham. Does this mean in insinuation the extinction of the heavens of Vanderbilt, Astor and Gerry? I know not.

I view with ill-concealed delight the scramble in certain quarters to apologize and kow-tow to M. Pierre Deschamps, Secretary in the French Diplomatic Corps. It appears that some one with a grudge against the gentleman circulated insinuations against his probity, which now and always have been known to be groundless. In some quarters the apology has been public. Mr. Deschamps, although a foreigner, is well and favorably known in America, and I fancy that the persons once most ready to sully his name have jumped to the conclusion that it will be better for them to arise in humility and acknowledge their error.

It seems strange that Henry James, the novelist, should be dragged from the obscurity of the past merely through the publication of a marriage notice. But the truth is that Mr. James is quite forgotten in America, although he once strove nobly for its social recognition. Now, however, that subtle gentleman is endeavoring to live down the dead past—his secret that he is an American—by impressing himself in European capitals. This cannot shie—him, for in all the wedding announcements of his nephew he is named the uncle, a great hardship to him. I fear, who has almost been forgotten as an American born.

In a way Oliver Sumner Teall has dropped out of view. Not so, however, with the one-time Mrs. Teall. Since her divorce from her former protective husband, Mrs. Sanford Bissell has returned to society, and still is hailed as a young and beautiful woman. I have not heard what Ollie is doing these days, but I fancy he prospers. I have seen him occasionally, and he still looks as young and

prosperous as ever, a trait of his that no stern adversity could influence. Possibly some day one of Mr. Teall's schemes may end in millions.

All this talk about the helira to Europe is, as I have said, pure rot. The rush of persons abroad can have no earthly effect on New York's season. I can assure Chicago, Peoria, Brooklyn, Terre Haute and Kamschatka that the opera season will be as brilliant as ever and that the famous jewels and no less brilliant personages again will be in view. Moreover, the potent charms of the season will be as multifarious and splendid as ever, and while there will be no Bradley-Martin balls or such spectacular events, New York will not suffer from a dearth of good times.

It cost my dear friends, the Strollers, nearly \$9,000 to stage the travesty, "The Lady from Chicago," and this amount, I am informed, already has returned in the receipts. Therefore the building fund of the club, as well as the various charities to which the receipts are dedicated, are assured of handsome amounts. Last night the show was for the moment off the boards on account of the Assembly being late. I am sure this interim will serve only to stimulate the curiosity to see an effort that is a real credit to the amateurs that have created it.

"She said: 'There, George Hammersley, I told you something was going to happen because you insisted on starting away from home on Friday,'"—Chicago Times-Herald.

Trials of Suburbanites.

"Move forward, there!" It was the hoarse voice of the conductor. "We can't move forward any further," gasped a suffocating passenger near the front platform, "without disturbing the coal teamster just ahead."—Chicago Tribune.

She Told Him So.

"What did your wife say when that fire broke out in the room across the hall from yours, on the tenth floor of the hotel?"

Sayings and Sayings.

The boy, having freely admitted that he cut down the cherry tree, is amazed to observe his father coming at him with the trunk strap.

"What!" exclaims the boy, "Do you not propose to exemplify the saying that honesty is the best policy?"

"No, rather, the saying that children and fools speak the truth!" retorted the old man, with a readiness of wit scarcely to be expected in one of his mature years.—Detroit Journal.